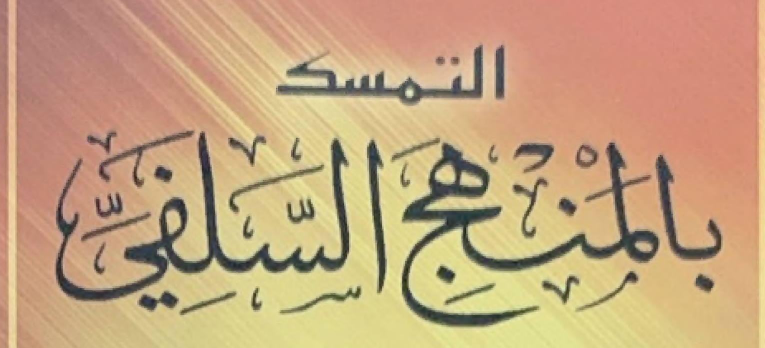


HOLDING FAST TO THE SALAFĪ MANHAJ

THE ADVICE OF

Shaikh Rabīʿ Ibn Hādī Al-Madkhalī

TO THE STUDENTS OF IMĀM IBN BĀZ

Followed by comments from

Shaikh ʿAbdul-ʿAzīz Ibn Bāz (رحمه الله)

Holding Fast to the *Salafī* Manhaj

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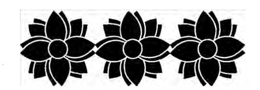
by the *'Allāmah* Rabī' bin Hādī al-Madkhalī

WITH ADDITIONS FROM:
The *Imām*, the *'Allāmah* 'Abdul-'Azīz Ibn 'Abdullāh Ibn Bāz (رَحِمَهُ ٱللَّهُ)

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The Advice of Shaikh Rabī‘ Ibn Hādī Al-Madkhalī to the students of *‘Allāmah* ‘Abdul-‘Azīz Ibn Bāz (رَحِمَهُ ٱللَّهُ)

All praise is due to Allāh, we seek His aid and His forgiveness. We seek refuge with Allāh from the evil of our souls and the evil of our actions. Whoever Allāh guides, no one can misguide, and whoever He sends astray, none can guide. I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except for Allāh alone, without any partners - and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger (صَلَّى ٱللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ).

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنتُم مُّسْلِمُونَ

"O you who believe! Fear Allāh as He deserves to be feared, and do not die except as Muslims."[1]

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُم مِّن نَّفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً ۚ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا

"O mankind! Be dutiful to your Lord, who created you from a single person (Adam), and from him He created his wife (Hawwa), and from them both He

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[1] Sūrah Āl-‘Imrān: 102

created many men and women and fear Allah through whom you demand your mutual rights, and do not cut the relations of kinship. Surely, Allah is ever an All-Watcher over you."[2]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا • يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ ۗ وَمَن يُطِعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا

"O you who have believed, fear Allāh and speak words of appropriate justice. He will then rectify for you your deeds and forgive you your sins. And whoever obeys Allāh and His Messenger has certainly attained a great success."[3]

To proceed: Indeed the most truthful speech is the Book of Allāh, the best guidance is the guidance of Muhammad (صَلَّى ٱللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) and the most evil of all affairs are the newly introduced affairs into the Religion. Every newly introduced affair is a *bid'ah*; every *bid'ah* is misguidance and every misguidance is in the Fire.

To proceed: So this is a happy moment and opportunity that we have met with our Shaikh and his students and we hope that Allāh places blessings in them and that Allāh makes them carriers of the banner of the *Sunnah* upon the way of their Salaf in the spreading of *Tawhīd* and *Sunnah*, and that they forbid *bid'ah* and superstitious beliefs which the Messenger used to forbid. Allāh sent Muhammad (صَلَّى ٱللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) as a mercy to the creation, so as to take mankind out of the darkness into the light - so he

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[2] Sūrah An-Nisā': 1

[3] Sūrah Al-Ahzāb: 70-71

conveyed the message and fulfilled the trust - and Allāh removed the people from darkness into the light by way of him.

And Allāh obligated upon us belief in him, obedience to him, believing in him and following him, both in this life and the next. For this reason, Allāh has encouraged us in numerous verses with obedience to this Messenger and following him, and he warned us from disobeying and opposing him, and He has threatened those who oppose him with the Fire. And we seek refuge with Allah from that.

So we warn severely from opposing this noble Messenger (صَلَّىٱللَّهُعَلَيْهِوَسَلَّمَ) in any affair from the affairs. We take as the focus of our eyes the saying of Allah, the Blessed and Most High:

وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا ۚ وَاذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ كُنتُمْ أَعْدَاءً فَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ فَأَصْبَحْتُم بِنِعْمَتِهِ إِخْوَانًا

> "And hold fast, all of you together, to the Rope of Allāh and be not divided among yourselves, and remember Allāh's Favour on you, for you were enemies one to another but He joined your hearts together, so that, by His Grace, you became brothers."[4]

The affair of this *Ummah* will not be upright except with obedience to this Messenger and following him with truthfulness and sincerity and by holding onto the Rope of Allāh: The Book of Allāh and the *Sunnah* of Allāh's Messenger (صَلَّىٱللَّهُعَلَيْهِوَسَلَّمَ).

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[4] Sūrah Āl-'Imrān: 103

The *Ummah* will never be upright except with this so upon us is to hold fast to the Rope of Allāh altogether united: As individuals, as groups of people, as societies and rulers. And our Lord will not be pleased with us except if we hold onto the Rope of Allāh, and stick to the guidance of His Messenger (عَلَيْهِ ٱلصَّلَاةُ وَٱلسَّلَامُ) and the guidance of the Rightly-guided Caliphs with our molar teeth just as the Messenger commanded.

So this is a mighty affair – and in these times we see the *Ummah* split and torn. And what is the reason behind this? It is the following of desires. If only we judged by Allāh and His Messenger (صَلَّى ٱللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) in the affairs that are differed over, then it is not possible for us to continue to differ. However, this continued differing is a proof that many people follow their desires and they are carried by their heads and they do not humble themselves to the guidance of Allāh (تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ):

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنكُمْ ۖ فَإِن تَنَازَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ إِن كُنتُمْ تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ ۚ ذَٰلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا

"O you who believe! Obey Allah and obey the Messenger, and those who are in authority. And if you differ in anything amongst yourselves, refer it to Allah and His Messenger, if you believe in Allah and in the Last Day. That is better and more suitable for final determination."[5]

So it is necessary to judge by Allāh and his Messenger (صَلَّى ٱللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) - and through this, differing will disappear and innovations in the Religion will scatter. And if we do not act upon this, then in

[5] Sūrah An-Nisā': 59

front of us is nothing but loss, misguidance and destruction - loss in this life and in the Hereafter. By Allāh! We sleep in the shade of the *Salafī da'wah*. This *Salafī da'wah* whose banner was raised by the *Imām*, the *Mujāddid* (the Reviver), Muhammad bin 'Abdul-Wahhāb (رَحِمَهُ ٱللَّهُ). He revived the path of the Companions of Allāh's Messenger (صَلَّىٰ ٱللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), and that of the *Imāms* of guidance from the best of generations, following in their footsteps: in worship, in belief, in the political arena, and in every affair. Allāh put an end to falsehood, superstitious practices, magic, lies, and contradictions to Islām. He (تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ) put an end to the abandonment of prayer, to the spilling of blood and to the stealing of wealth.

So Allāh extinguished this falsehood, this deviation and misguidance by way of this blessed *da'wah*. And this *da'wah* grew and spread and illuminated the world upon the true methodology. So when we make mention of the *Salafī* methodology and the *Salafī da'wah*, then we intend this blessed *da'wah* that Allāh's Messenger (صَلَّىٰ ٱللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), his noble Companions (رَضِيَ ٱللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ) and the *Imāms* of guidance were upon, and those after them such as Ahmad Ibn Hanbal (d. 241H), Ibn Taymiyyah (d. 728H), Muhammad ibn 'Abdul-Wahhāb (d. 1206H).

So this religion is complete. We are not in need of anyone's personal opinions, personal thoughts or ideas and philosophies from any aspect or from any group. This religion has been completed in the Book of Allāh and in the *Sunnah* of Allāh's Messenger (صَلَّىٰ ٱللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) and in the understanding of the *Salaf* - those who understood the book and the *Sunnah* with a true understanding in belief and worship.

So let us bite tightly onto this *Salafī* methodology that we talk to you about for indeed it is the truth. It is the methodology of the Victorious and Aided Group (*At-Tā'ifatul-Mansūrah*) that Allāh's Messenger (صَلَّىٰ ٱللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) informed us of; it is upon the truth and

that will never cease to be upon the truth. It is the methodology of the Saved Sect and that is the Aided Group, which Allāh's Messenger (صَلَّى ٱللَّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) spoke of when he said that the *Ummah* will divide – and Allāh established the truthfulness of that narration – and the *Ummah* has indeed divided. And there remained the *Tā'ifati ahlil-Hadīth* (the group of the people of *Hadīth*) for whom it has been testified even by *ahlul-bid'ah* after *ahlus-Sunnah* that they are the People of Truth, they are the Aided Group and they are the Saved Sect. And this is the path that Ibn Taymiyyah (رَحِمَهُ ٱللَّٰهُ) and Ibn 'Abdul-Wahhāb (رَحِمَهُ ٱللَّٰهُ) emulated and called to.

So we are blessed to be in the shade of this blessed *da'wah* and we are illuminated by its light not only in this land but rather all the world. And were it not for the obstacles and the hindering of the enemies of this *da'wah* amongst *ahlul-bid'ah* and the people of misguidance, you would have seen the whole Islamic world illuminated and radiant with this blessed *da'wah.* This *da'wah* began, and started spreading and sweeping through the earth. Then the people of innovations and unbelief ordered that this surge and strong current be stemmed and they did what they could to stop it. So it is upon you to comprehend this and these plots against the *da'wah.* One must not be lax regarding what has been achieved of the spreading of its illumination. The people of innovation and misguidance are not sleeping, regardless of whether they misguide to outright disbelief, or to partisanship, or to *Sūfism*, or to *Rafd* (of the *Shī'ah*), or other than these from the various types of misguidance. It is not possible for their eyes to settle and for them to feel at ease while this true Islamic *Salafī da'wah* has spread through the earth, so they plot against it with their plots.

So pay attention O youth and hold fast to the rope of Allāh as you have been commanded to by Allāh, and beware of splitting, and cut off all the routes and means that lead to it, regardless of whether they are desires or fanaticism and so on.

So this affair is binding upon you my brothers. We see that many of the youth do not protect themselves from falling into lying and tearing apart the honour of the *Salafī* callers, the people of truth, those who do not call to partisanship and falsehood, allowing *Shaiṭān* to give them justification. They tear apart their honour and mutilate it with lies and fabrications. So upon you is truthfulness, and truthfulness leads to piety, and piety leads to Paradise, and a person does not cease to tell the truth until he is written with Allāh as an utterly truthful person (a *siddīq*). And a person does not cease to tell lies until he is written with Allāh as an utter liar (a *kadhdhāb*). There are some people who continue to lie until they are written with Allāh as liars, and Allāh's refuge is sought from that. So what is it that they are waiting for?!

My brothers, the noble Messenger (صَلَّىٰ ٱللَّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) forbade from tribalism and fanaticism to one's kinsfolk. A man in the time of Prophethood called out: "O *Ansār*!" And another said: "O *Muhājirūn*!" The word *Ansār* is a noble term that is found in the Book of Allāh and in the *Sunnah* of the Messenger (صَلَّىٰ ٱللَّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), and likewise the term, *al-Muhājirūn* also. However, when these two words were used to call to one's whims and for falsehood, Allāh's Messenger (صَلَّىٰ ٱللَّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

> "Do you call with the calls of the days of ignorance (*Jāhiliyyah*) whilst I am amongst you? Leave that for it is foul."[6]

And this foul odour is present today in the field of *da'wah*. So instead of the youth holding fast to this true, clear and apparent methodology, they are enticed by desires and enticed to the sects of misguidance – and Allāh's refuge is sought.

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[6] Sahīh Muslim: 2584

So what we have is a blessing from Allāh. It is possible for us to examine what has occurred behind us when these lands were torn apart, and its people were divided into parties and tribes - indeed even a tribe would itself be torn apart and divided, one part fighting another and robbing from another. Then Allāh (تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى) united this peninsula by way of this blessed and virtuous *da'wah*, the *da'wah* of *tawhīd*: *Tawhīd* in one's belief, *tawhīd* upon Allāh's Religion, oneness of the *Ummah* upon a united word, upon a singular methodology - this is a bounty from Allāh, the Blessed and Most High.

Centuries passed over the Arabian Peninsula whilst it was lost in ignorance, in misguidance, in polytheism, religious-innovations and superstitious heretical beliefs; in killing, robbery and plunder. Then Allāh united this peninsula by way of this virtuous and blessed *da'wah*.

It is not possible for the people of falsehood to settle their eyes and feel at ease. They desire evil for this *da'wah*, and division and its tearing apart. This is because the people of *bid'ah* are afraid of the *Salafī* methodology and they know that the truth is manifested in it. And the Jews and the Christians are not afraid of Islām except that Islām which they have termed ***"Wahhābī Islām"***.

And I would watch and observe the spreading and propagation of this *Salafī* call throughout the world. The people of Algeria would come to Shaikh Ibn Bāz, Shaikh Ibn Uthaimīn, and Shaikh Al-Albānī, to the Imāms of the *Salafī* methodology – and the people of Algeria would follow precisely and completely this *manhaj*. Then the enemies of Allāh plotted and colluded together, and altered the direction of that society, and made them distant from the true methodology of Allāh, and then various and numerous groups became established in that land. And now do you see what has happened? And all of this splitting, hatred, and fighting is due to the plots and scheming of the people of

innovation and misguidance, and behind them are the enemies of Allāh - and that is because they are afraid of this Islām (i.e. *Salafiyyah*). And they plotted the demise of *Salafi*yyah in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The enemies of Allāh colluded and schemed together against this *da'wah* and killed it, and they wish to kill it off and destroy it in this land, Saudi Arabia.

There is no rescue and salvation for this *Ummah*, for this society and for this Arabian Peninsula except by holding fast to the rope of Allāh altogether, and to abandon splitting and division; and to close off the means that lead to it; and to abandon all these evils and futile calls. By Allāh, we know that the Arabs in their *Jāhiliyyah* (pre-Islamic ignorance) and their Islām would be embarrassed and ashamed to lie - yet today so many people are not ashamed of lying or fabricating slanderous statements; nor are they ashamed of blind fanaticism. Islām wages war against all of this in the strongest manner. The Messenger of Allāh (عَلَيْهِ الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ) said:

مَنْ خَرَجَ عَنْ الطاعة، وَفَارَقَ اَلْجَمَاعَةَ، مات مِيتَة الجاهِلِيَّةُ

> "Whoever leaves obedience to the ruler, and abandons the *Jamā'ah*, then he dies a death of *Jāhiliyyah*."

مَنْ خَرَجَ مِنَ الطَّاعَةِ وَفَارَقَ الْجَمَاعَةَ فَمَاتَ مَاتَ مِيتَةً جَاهِلِيَّةً
وَمَنْ قَاتَلَ تَحْتَ رَايَةٍ عُمِّيَّةٍ يَغْضَبُ لِعَصَبَةٍ أَوْ يَدْعُو إِلَى عَصَبَةٍ أَوْ
يَنْصُرُ عَصَبَةً فَقُتِلَ فَقِتْلَةٌ جَاهِلِيَّةٌ وَمَنْ خَرَجَ عَلَى أُمَّتِي يَضْرِبُ
بَرَّهَا وَفَاجِرَهَا وَلاَ يَتَحَاشَ مِنْ مُؤْمِنِهَا وَلاَ يَفِي لِذِي عَهْدٍ عَهْدَهُ
فَلَيْسَ مِنِّي وَلَسْتُ مِنْهُ

> "The one who abandoned the obedience to the ruler and separated from the main body (*Jamā'ah*) of the Muslims – then if he died in that state, he would die the death of one belonging to the days of *Jāhiliyyah*. One who fights under the banner of an ignorant cause, calling to tribal pride, getting angry for his tribe and aiding his tribe. So if he is killed whilst engaged in this, he dies as one belonging to the days of *Jāhiliyyah*. Whoever attacks my *Ummah* killing the righteous and the wicked of them, sparing not even those staunch in faith and fulfilling not his promise made with those who have been given a pledge of security - he has nothing to do with me and I have nothing to do with him."[7]

These types of fanaticism and partisanship are present today and are real and tangible. These types of people do not accept evidences and proofs. The truthful one is no longer believed yet the liar is believed. These calamities are present. O brothers! We must set ourselves aright and free ourselves from these calamities and put them to an end. The Noble Messenger (ﷺ) stated:

مَن نَصَرَ بَاطِلا وَهُوَ يَعلَمه، لَم يَزل فِي سَخط الله حَتَّى ينْزِع، و مَن قال فِي مُؤمِن مَا لَيسَ فِيهِ، أسكنه الله رَدْغَةُ الخَبَالِ حَتَّى يَخرج ممَّا قال

[7] Sahīh Muslim 1848

> "Whoever aids falsehood whilst he knows it, will not cease to be under the anger of Allāh until he stops. Whoever says about a believer that which he is innocent of, then Allāh will give him a dwelling in the corrupt fluids flowing from the inhabitants of Hell – until he retracts that which he said."[8]

This *radghatul-khabāl* is the corrupt fluids flowing from the people of Hell - and I think it is the most horrid place in Hell - and Allāh's refuge is sought. I think it is the foulest, most putrefied, and worst-smelling place wherein will dwell the one who aids falsehood whilst he knows it to be falsehood. So he will be under the wrath of Allāh until he gives it up. So if he argues falsely or falsely accuses a Muslim, then his punishment is that Allāh will give him a dwelling in the foul-smelling, corrupt fluid of the

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[8] The *hadīth* is reported in *Sunan Abī Dāwūd* (no. 3597) with the wording:

وَمَنْ خَاصَمَ فِي بَاطِلٍ وَهُوَ يَعْلَمُهُ لَمْ يَزَلْ فِي سَخَطِ اللَّهِ حَتَّى يَنْزِعَ
وَمَنْ قَالَ فِي مُؤْمِنٍ مَا لَيْسَ فِيهِ أَسْكَنَهُ اللَّهُ رَدْغَةَ الْخَبَالِ حَتَّى
يَخْرُجَ مِمَّا قَالَ

"Whoever disputes knowingly about something which is false, he remains under the anger of Allāh till he desists. And if anyone makes an untruthful accusation against a believer, he will be made by Allāh to dwell in the corrupt fluid flowing from the inhabitants of Hell till he retracts his statement." (Shaikh Al-Albānī declared it *sahīh* (see: *As-Sahīhah*, 438).

people of Hell until he retracts what he has said. And there occurs in the report of At-Tabarānī:

"He will not come out; he will not come out."[9]

So how will he come out when he has slandered the pious and pure believers?

O Brothers, upon us is to hold fast to the rope of Allāh and to keep away from differing and its causes. I ask Allāh (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَىٰ) to give us the ability to see with the truth, to recognise the truth for what it is, and to sustain us upon that - and to recognise falsehood for what it is and to keep us away from it. And that He makes us callers to the truth, and aiders of the truth, distant from aiding falsehood, and distant from the act of slandering the pious believers about which the Messenger (صَلَّى ٱللَّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) informed us concerning their destination.

Finally, I conclude these brief words with salutations of peace and prayer upon our noble Prophet, and I call you to his obedience and to following him, once more. And I request from our Shaikh 'Abdul-Azīz Ibn Bāz to comment as he sees fit so as to benefit his sons.

And may the peace and salutations of Allāh be upon our Prophet Muhammad, and upon his family and his companions.

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[9] At-Tabarānī no. 11525; Al-Hākim said: "It has a *Sahīh* chain of narration." Also see *As-Sahīhah*, 438

The Commentary of the noble Shaikh Ibn Bāz (رَحِمَهُ ٱللَّهُ)

May Allāh give you steadfastness.
In the name of Allāh, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

Indeed, all praise is due to Allāh. May the salutations of peace and blessings of Allāh be upon the Messenger, his family, his Companions and those who follow his guidance.

To proceed: We have heard this blessed and excellent speech from our virtuous companion, Shaikh Rabīʿ bin Hādī Al-Madkhalī in the topic of holding fast to the Book and the *Sunnah* and warning from that which opposes them; and his warning against the doors and avenues that lead to splitting and differing; and warning from fanaticism to one's desires. So he has done well, he has excelled, and he has benefitted those present. So may Allāh reward him with good and multiply his reward.

And that is indeed the obligation, i.e. to judge by two Revelations in every affair, great or small, just as Allāh (تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ) has stated:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنكُمْ ۖ فَإِن تَنَازَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ إِن كُنتُمْ تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ ۚ ذَٰلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا

"O you who believe! Obey Allāh and obey the Messenger, and those of you who are in authority. And if you differ in anything amongst yourselves, refer it to Allāh and His Messenger, if you believe in

Allāh and in the Last Day. That is better and more suitable for final determination."[10]

And He (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَىٰ) said:

وَمَا اخْتَلَفْتُمْ فِيهِ مِن شَيْءٍ فَحُكْمُهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ

"And in whatsoever you differ, the decision thereof is with Allāh."[11]

And Allāh (جَلَّ وَعَلَا) stated:

وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا

"And hold fast, all of you together, to the Rope of Allāh, and be not divided."[12]

And the affair is just as Shaikh Rabīʿ has said - that it is obligatory upon the believers to hold fast to the Book and the *Sunnah* and to judge by them, and to present whatever the people differ in to the Book and the *Sunnah*. And whatever the Book or *Sunnah* testify to being true and correct, then it is true and correct, and whatever they testify to be false then it is falsehood – and this is an obligation upon the whole *Ummah* because this is what Allāh has commanded with, and His Messenger likewise.

It is obligatory upon the people of knowledge and the students of knowledge and upon all of the people to hold fast to the Book and

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[10] Sūrah An-Nisā': 59

[11] Sūrah Ash-Shūrā: 10

[12] Sūrah Āl-ʿImrān: 103

the *Sunnah*, and to proceed upon the methodology of the *Salafus-Sālih* (the Pious Predecessors) - and they are the Companions and those who follow them correctly and precisely, just as Allāh (جَلَّ وَعَلَا) has stated:

وَالسَّابِقُونَ الْأَوَّلُونَ مِنَ الْمُهَاجِرِينَ وَالْأَنصَارِ وَالَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوهُم بِإِحْسَانٍ رَّضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ وَأَعَدَّ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي تَحْتَهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا ۚ ذَٰلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ

> "And the first to embrace Islām of the *Muhajirūn* and the *Ansār* and also those who followed them exactly. Allāh is pleased with them and they are pleased with Him. He has prepared for them Gardens under which rivers flow, to dwell therein forever. That is the supreme success."[13]

So this is the reward for the Companions of the Prophet and those who follow them precisely, and proceed upon their path. And it is binding upon the student of knowledge to understand this well, to be just, honest and truthful, and to seek and search out the truth - and to be distant from, and cautious of the affairs that lead to differing; to beware of following desires, and of blind following and having fanaticism to this person or that person, or to a particular group, or to anything else for that matter.

It is obligatory to follow the truth and to stick to it and to warn from whatever opposes it, even if it is something said by your own father, or brother or anyone else. So binding upon you is to follow the truth and that has more right to be followed. And Allāh (جَلَّ وَعَلَا) says in His Mighty Book:

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[13] Sūrah At-Tawbah: 100

فَلَا وَرَبِّكَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ حَتَّىٰ يُحَكِّمُوكَ فِيمَا شَجَرَ بَيْنَهُمْ ثُمَّ لَا يَجِدُوا فِي أَنفُسِهِمْ حَرَجًا مِّمَّا قَضَيْتَ وَيُسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا

"But no! By your Lord, they can have no Faith, until they make you (O Muhammad ﷺ) judge in all disputes between them, and find in themselves no resistance against your decisions, and accept them with full submission."[14]

And He (جَلَّ وَعَلَا) said:

قُلْ إِن كُنتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ

"Say: If you really love Allāh then follow me, Allāh will love you and forgive you of your sins."[15]

And He (جَلَّ وَعَلَا) said:

وَمَا آتَاكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانتَهُوا ۚ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ ۖ إِنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ

"And whatsoever the Messenger gives you, take it, and whatsoever he forbids you, abstain from it, and fear Allāh. Verily, Allāh is severe in punishment."[16]

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[14] Sūrah An-Nisā': 65

[15] Sūrah Āl-'Imrān: 31

[16] Sūrah Al-Hashr: 7

And the Prophet (صَلَّى ٱللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

مَنْ أَطَاعَنِي فَقَدْ أَطَاعَ اللَّهَ وَمَنْ عَصَانِي فَقَدْ عَصَى اللَّهَ

> "Whoever obeys me has obeyed Allāh, and whoever disobeyed me has disobeyed Allāh."[17]

And he (صَلَّى ٱللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

كُلُّ أُمَّتِي يَدْخُلُونَ الْجَنَّةَ، إِلاَّ مَنْ أَبَى. قيل يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ مَنْ يَأْبَى قَالَ:
مَنْ أَطَاعَنِي دَخَلَ الْجَنَّةَ، وَمَنْ عَصَانِي فَقَدْ أَبَى

> "All my followers will enter Paradise except those who refuse." They said, "O Allāh's Messenger (صَلَّى ٱللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) who would refuse?" He said, "Whoever obeys me will enter Paradise, and whoever disobeys me has refused."[18]

So it is obligatory upon the people of knowledge to convey this *da'wah* to the people and to give them insight and understanding regarding that which is mandatory upon them. And likewise for the students of knowledge, they consult with and maintain ties with the scholars - and that they follow them upon their methodology in clarifying the truth and warning from differing and disputing and following of desires. And likewise for the general Muslims that they must remain steadfast upon the truth, and they ask the scholars who are known for the *Sunnah* and known for steadfastness upon Allāh's Religion and they know them for being upon the truth. Upon these general Muslims is

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[17] Bukhārī and Muslim

[18] Sahīh Al-Bukhāri: 7280

that they remain steadfast, they ask about those affairs that cause them difficulty just as Allāh (جَلَّ وَعَلَا) stated:

فَاسْأَلُوا أَهْلَ الذِّكْرِ إِن كُنتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ

> "So ask the people who know what has been revealed, if you know not."[19]

And it is narrated by Allāh's Messenger (صَلَّى ٱللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) that he said to a group who gave a *fatwa* without knowledge:

أَلا سَأَلُوا إِذْ لَمْ يَعْلَمُوا فَإِنَّمَا شِفَاءُ الْعِيِّ السُّؤَالُ

> "Why did they not ask if they did not know? Verily, the cure to ignorance is to ask."[20]

And likewise it is obligatory upon the scholars to spread knowledge, to spread the truth and to clarify it to the people in the mosques and in general gatherings; and in broadcasts, newspapers, and every means by way of which knowledge can be conveyed for indeed people are in need of knowledge. It is upon them to convey the words of Allāh and the words of the Messenger (صَلَّى ٱللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) alongside clarifying and making clear falsehood and warning from it.

And that which was mentioned by the virtuous Shaikh Rabīʿ regarding the *daʿwah* of Shaikh Muhammad ibn ʿAbdul-Wahhāb (رَحِمَهُ ٱللَّهُ) then that is the reality – for indeed Allāh has blessed this land with this blessed *daʿwah* and that is the *Salafī daʿwah*. However, the enemies of Allāh distorted and lied upon this

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[19] Sūrah An-Nahl: 43

[20] Sunan Abī Dāwūd: 336

da'wah. They said about it, *"Wahābiyyah!"* The people of innovations who call to *this-and-that*; they are astray, and they are people of innovation. They are the ones who are ignorant or blind followers of the ignorant. Either they are ignorant, or they blindly follow the ignorant; or thirdly is the one who follows his desires, the one who disobeys Allāh upon knowledge! These are the enemies of the *Salafī da'wah*: Either an ignorant one, or a blind follower of an ignorant one, or otherwise a person of desires who is a fanatical follower of his desires, and wishes to destroy and devour, and wants the people to be pleased with just eating, drinking and desires! We ask Allāh for well-being and safety.

The *da'wah* of Shaikh Muhammad (رَحِمَهُ ٱللَّهُ) was a call to *Salafīyyah*, taking the path in *da'wah* that was taken by the Companions (رَضِيَ ٱللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ) and those who followed them precisely. And in this they were followed by the likes of *Shaikhul-Islām* Ibn Taymiyyah, Ibnul-Qayyim, Ibn Kathīr (رَحِمَهُمُ ٱللَّهُ) and those like them from the great scholars of Islām. Then after them came *Shaikhul-Islām* Muhammad Ibn 'Abdul-Wahhāb (رَحِمَهُ ٱللَّهُ) in the middle of the twelfth century after the *Hijrah* as a mercy from Allāh to this *Ummah* and to this peninsula. So he clarified for them that the legislated worship which is obligatory is to be directed solely to Allāh (تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ). He explained to them the reality of *Tawhīd* (which is to worship Allāh alone) and what the polytheists were upon [of falsehood] and that which the Righteous *Salaf* of the *Ummah* were upon.

He explained and clarified for them the way of the *Salafus-Sālih* (the Pious Predecessors), and called them to *Jihād* [in the correct manner]. He authored *Kitābut-Tawhīd* (The Book of Monotheism), *Kashfush-Shubuhāt*, (The Removal of the Doubts) and *Ath-Thalāthatul-Usūl* (The Three Fundamental Principles) in making clear the truth - and all are extremely beneficial works.

They spread amongst themselves the books of *Shaikhul-Islām* Ibn Taymiyyah (رَحِمَهُ ٱللَّهُ) due to what they contain of goodness, knowledge, and calling to Allāh and the *Sunnah* of His Messenger (صَلَّى ٱللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ). So Allāh benefitted the Muslims by way of this *da'wah* and Allāh united the Arabian Peninsula due to the aid of the *da'wah* by its helpers from the House of Sa'ūd and others; all in the aid of the Religion of Allāh (سُبْحَانَهُۥ وَتَعَالَىٰ), and the Book of Allāh and the *Sunnah* of His Messenger (صَلَّى ٱللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) to the point that Allāh supported them and blessed them with conquests such that Allāh united the Arabian Peninsula at their hands from its east to its west, and from its south to its north – all upon the truth, upon following the *Sharī'ah* of Allāh, upon steadfastness, and firmness upon the religion of Allāh. So all praise is due to Allāh for that.

So it is obligatory to hold fast to this methodology, and to call to it and preserve and protect it, and to spread it amongst the people with wisdom, good manners and gentleness, without harshness – and to explain to them the mistakes, misguidance and doubts using clear proofs and gentleness; with wisdom and not sternness or harshness, nor with distorted and crooked methods. Rather, using clear proofs, clear methods, and with gentleness and wisdom, just as Allāh (سُبْحَانَهُۥ وَتَعَالَىٰ) has said:

ادْعُ إِلَىٰ سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحِكْمَةِ

"Call to the way of your Lord with wisdom..."

Meaning, with knowledge which is: "Allāh said..." and "the Messenger said..." and to put the affairs in their correct place when inviting to Islām. Allāh continues:

وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ ۖ وَجَادِلْهُم بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ

"...and good instruction, and argue with them in a way that is best."[21]

And the Prophet (صَلَّى ٱللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

إِنَّ الرِّفْقَ لاَ يَكُونُ فِي شَيْءٍ إِلاَّ زَانَهُ وَلاَ يُنْزَعُ مِنْ شَيْءٍ إِلاَّ شَانَهُ

"Compassion is not present in something except that it adorns it, and it is not removed from something without disfiguring it."[22]

And Allāh (سُبْحَانَهُۥ وَتَعَالَىٰ) said:

فَبِمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ لِنتَ لَهُمْ ۖ وَلَوْ كُنتَ فَظًّا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ
لَانفَضُّوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ

"And by the Mercy of Allāh, you dealt gently with them. And had you been severe and harsh-hearted, they would have broken away from you."[23]

It is obligatory upon the callers to Allāh to be perceptive, having insight and knowledge; that they are gentle; and that they pay attention that their methods are clear and evidenced – and that they are aware of and are warned from harshness, and from fanaticism to this one or that one.

We ask Allāh to grant everyone success in gaining beneficial knowledge, and performing righteous deeds, and to bestow them

[21] Sūrah An-Nahl: 125

[22] Reported by Sahih Muslim 2594 from 'Ā'ishah (رَضِيَ ٱللَّهُ عَنْهَا)

[23] Sūrah Āl-'Imrān: 159

understanding of the religion - and that He places in charge of their affairs the best of them, that He rectifies their leadership, and that he grants success to our leaders in this Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

We ask Allāh (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَىٰ) to grant them every goodness and to aid the truth by way of them, and that Allāh makes them guides of the guided ones. And we ask that He rectifies for them their companionship and Allāh gives them refuge from evil companionship. And that Allāh grants the virtuous Shaikh Rabīʿ every good, and that He rewards him for this fine speech.

May Allāh (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَىٰ) extol the mention of our Prophet Muhammad in the highest company of the Angels, and praise him, and give him peace and safety, and likewise his family and his Companions and those who follow him correctly till the Day of Resurrection.